particularly in LPG cyclinders, baby foods, cereals and pulses, edible oils, medicines for pregnant mothers and infants, stationary for school and college students, school uniforms, milk and low price toiletries. It also wanted withdrawal of tax on tele, phone services.

(b) Government is deeply concerned about the uptrend in the prices especially of those items which affect the low income families, Government is determined to see that the price of wheat, rice sugar and edible oils remains stable during the current year. In view of the comfortable foreign exchange reserves position, the Government will not hesitate to aug-ment domestic supplies through-ports. Steps have already been initiated to pursuade Industry to pass on some of the benefits of excise and customs duty reduction announced in 1995-96 Budget to the consumers.

**Duty on imported Cine Film**

6019. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI H. HUNUMANTHAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the film distributors recently sought relief in the countervailing duty on imported cine films, negative and positive since these items were not Treing manufactured in the country; and

(b) if so, what is the reaaction of the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN *THE* MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKAR.A MURTHY): (a) A pre-budget representation was received from the Film Distributors counc'l requesting for abolition of countervailing duty on cine colour negative and positive jumbo stock.

(b) The Government have not found it feasible to accede to the above mentioned request.

**Amount flue from Government of Maharashtra**

6020. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: WiU the Minister of FINANCE be pleas-fid to state:

(a) whether an amount of Rs. 24 crores is due from the Government of Maharashtra under the Maharash tra Agricultural and Rural Develop ment Relief Scheme, 1990;

(b) whether the District Cooperative Bankg and the State L. D. Bank have been incurring losses on ac count of interest due to the delay in paying the said amount to the State Government; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in paying the amount to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKAR A MURTHY): (a) to (c) The details of claims lodged under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 by Co-operative Banks in Maharashtra and the amounts released there against by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are as under: